

## DEAD CREEK NOTES

1970's

- 3/71 Yellow discharge in creek brought to attention of Eric Merz by Joseph S. LiVigni (Cahokia City Council member) and Roscoe Easteridge (Cahokia Public Works Director). Mr. LiVigni and Mr. Easteridge suspected discharge from Waggoner Trucking Co., a chemical transport company adjacent to DC, but no evidence found supporting that suspicion.
- 3&4/71 Eric Merz and Mike Neumann met Mr. Easteridge at DC. Contact made with Ernest Russell (Cahokia Health Officer) who had observed chemical in creek and felt it was from Cerro or Monsanto since DC originated there. Insufficient evidence. Mr. Merz met with Mike Foresman (Monsanto Pollution Control Engineer) who felt discharge could not be from Cerro or Monsanto because (A) Queeny Avenue culvert is blocked off and (B) stream bed grade causes water on north side of Queeny to flow north to Monsanto sewer (& onto Sauget STP). Recent dye tests and later additional tests by Monsanto showed no escape to south side.
- Joseph Goldenberg (Chief Engineer at Cerro) said same thing Mr. Schmidt (resident) told Mr. Merz and Mr. Neumann he had frequently observed yellow substance in DC flowing south from under Queeny Avenue. He said culvert was not blocked off. A new culvert was put in 3-4 years previous for railroad switch for Cerro was installed. He said when they pump in and out of DC on north side, water level changes on south side.
- No follow-up on record in FOS.
- 4&7/71 Tanker trucks labeled corrosive were observed to be discharging contents to DC. Robert Schleuger notified Waggoner to stop it immediately and notify Agency as to method of abatement of discharge.
- 8/71 Reply from Waggoner: they have stopped discharge to DC and would be disposing in quarry pit instead.
- 2&3/73 Further discharging to DC observed by Agency personnel by Waggoner. Mike Neumann contacted Mr. Waggoner at his office. Mr. Waggoner said tanker truck washwater was being discharged into a circular hole approximately 100 yds. behind office (approximately 30' diameter, depth unknown) Oil on surface, no fence or warning signs, no construction permits. Mr. Waggoner said little acid left in trucks due to pressured unloading and oil probably from some barrels discarded nearby in previous years.
- 5/75 Ernest Russell (Cahokia Health Officer) contacted Larry Eastep about discharge to DC by Cerro. Mr. Walter Allen of Theresa's Flower Shop was interviewed regarding his complaint about water from his well (adjacent to quarry pit "backwater" at DC) that he used on his orchids. After the heavy rains of May 5-12, water in the pit was reddish brown or orange and his orchids were then ruined.

At Queeny there was no flow but pools of water had yellow-orange color, banks and bottom were reddish orange. High water mark indicated creek had been almost 2' deep. Mr. Goldenberg and Mr. Foresman again stated that culvert was closed off at Queeny.

(COD = 36 mg/l, TDS = 890 mg/l, chlorides = 150 mg/l,  
ammonia = 2.0 mg/l, iron = 3.2 mg/l, mercury = 0.1 ppb)

Downstream, quarry pit had dark reddish-brown water. 3 of 4 points in next 1/4 mile had less discoloration, 4th had none.

Mr. Eastep contacted Mr. Goldenberg at Cerro and saw 250' X 50' channel (about 20' deep) that was headwaters of DC until culvert was blocked. It had 6" water, reddish brown, flowing slowly toward diversion structure at north end. Uncertain whether channel backed up through culvert to DC or DC backed up to north through culvert (due to vegetation clogging it up.)

Samples done do not suggest Monsanto wastes present. Iron probably responsible for color but source unknown. (could even be from quarry pit)

#### 1980's

9/80 Tom Powell and Ken Mensing sampled soil 9/17 and 9/25  
Soil and water sample results 9/8/80 - 9/17/80 attached  
Area 40 yd. north of Judith had highest contamination levels  
(PCB's = 120 ppm, white phosphorus = 120,000 ppm, lead = 2400 ppm)

9/80 Jack Muraro's press release  
Due to death from chemical burns of dog that had rolled in ditch, sampling of soil showed hazardous levels of PCB's, phosphorus, heavy metals and other toxic materials. Well at 101 Walnut, adjacent to pit, showed low levels of chlordane, PCB's and alkylbenzenes. Pit water showed normal metals levels, low levels of PCB's and aliphatic hydrocarbons. DOT snow fencing installed around creek and pit between Queeny and Judith.

No vapors unless ground disturbed in creek bed.  
Reports of old buried landfill just south of Queeny, north of Waggoner property to be investigated.

9/80 newspaper clips:  
It was reported that Leo Sauget operated immense landfill south of Queeny, west of Falling Springs Road from early in century till mid 60's. EPA had no record since first rules governing registration of landfills with state were passed in 1966 under jurisdiction of Public Health. A.G.'s office (Ann Carr) had "suspect" in case, but no investigation yet. EPA reluctant to drill in area due to possible release of wastes from buried drums. Will use metal detectors first. ~~Monsanto~~ disposed of wastes in Sauget's landfill from 1917 till late 1920's.

proof? Site H

- 9/80 Dan Bishop, Monsanto Director of Environmental Communications, quoted as saying that between 1971 and 1977 chemical wastes from Krummrich plant and other industrial firms was disposed of in Monsanto's on-site incinerators. Before 1971, they disposed of PCB by-products by burying them on-site at Sauget plant. Bishop said recent studies show PCB's do not cause cancer in humans and their toxicity has been overstated.
- 9/80 Meeting of Mayor King, Mayor Sauget, J. Kelty, R. Schleuger, K. Mensing, W. Franke:  
Middle of ditch divides the two towns so neither claims responsibility (neither do individual homeowners). Residents said Waggoner dumped various chemicals there (when washing his trucks). Waggoner died 4 years ago. Employee (Schmidt) continued dumping there til he died 2 years ago.  
Most industrial wells in area closed except Cargill, but Schleuger said 2 municipal wells still open.
- 9/80 40 yd. North of Judith:  
PCB's 120 ppm (5200 ppm 50 yd. S. of Queeny)  
phosphorus 120,000 ppm  
lead 2400 ppm
- 10/80 Newspaper clips:  
Monsanto requested to do joint sampling with IEPA. Cahokia Fire Department refused to answer any more calls at DC unless life-threatening. No medical tests scheduled for 45 members of Volunteer Fire Dept. who have fought fires there more than 10 years. Agency to seek permission from industries to drill in area.
- 10/80 Letter from Stanley Parsons (IEPA, enforcement) to Thomas Owen (Cahokia) warning him against breaking down fence again
- 10/80 Woman called office to report that Rogers Trucking frequently released liquids into DC in late evenings as tankers were being rinsed out. She recalled old dump at corner of Queeny and Nickel. (Rogers occupied Waggoner property)
- 11/80 Newspaper Clips:  
No public outcry or neighborhood groups. Peter Lauman moved to Houston. Samples taken by IEPA/Monsanto on 10-2-80 from northern, central and southern portions of creek bed showed:

	North	Central	South
(PCB's)	10,000 ppm (IEPA),	350 ppm	73 ppm
	13,000 ppm (Monsanto)	240 ppm	45 ppm
(phosphorus)	2,000 ppm (IEPA)	8,900 ppm	4,700 ppm
	2,550 ppm (Monsanto)	13,000 ppm	9400 ppm

Chlorinated benzenes (25 ppb) and chlorophenols (850 ppm) found in groundwater, but not in drinking water wells. Geologic structure may keep it out of wells but monitoring to continue to be sure.  
Subsurface soil samples 3 blocks south of Judith (near where Cahokia Ave curves into Edwards Pl.) showed 100 ppm PCB's at 12" depth.  
Levels tend to decrease at deeper levels. PCB's too heavy to get down to river.

- 11/80 Vegetation sample approximately 30' west of DC, approximately 60' south of Queeny  
beans - 0.06 ppm PCB's  
leaves - 0.13 ppm PCB's
- 12/80 Newspaper clips:  
USEPA Research Development Team (stationed in Las Vegas) to take aerial photos (possibly not til spring) to assist in pinpointing where drums are buried in old landfill northwest of DC. Photos to outline temperature variances in soil to locate high concentrations of chemicals. Tony Rutter (USEPA - Region V oil & hazardous materials coordinator) toured DC with John Renkes to determine eligibility for Superfund money. Site was considered for federal water pollution control act's revolving pollution fund, but U.S. Coast Guard declared it ineligible since surface water not threatened.
- 12/80 William Seltzer (IEPA Enforcement) letter to Reed Neuman requesting summary of DC investigation progress. Map dated 10/56 of sewer system under Monsanto revealed 36" overflow pipe ending at head of DC. (No reply found)
- 2/81 Newspaper Clip:  
Air samples negative when soils undisturbed, but harmful vapors when disturbed. 12 groundwater wells sunk.
- 2/81 Test results of Cerro well and 2 lagoons. Tests to be redone due to dilution of samples with wash water by drill rig crew (as per letter from J. Renkes to J. Johnson at Cerro)
- 11/81 Memo to Bill Busch mentioning area (in Sauget?) that was used by Fed government to dump "very strong" materials in WW II.
- 7/82 Specs and Statement of Work (for new fence) mentions that the creek was blocked at Judith. Also lists industries that contributed wastes to DC before culvert was plugged in 1971 (Waggoner, Monsanto, Midwest Rubber, Chemical Warfare Service - Division of the US Army, Lewin Metals Co. <sup>near</sup> Cerro, American Zinc - now Amax, LuBright Refinery - now a Mobil Mkt'g Terminal and Empire Disposal.)
- 7/82 T. Powell, M. O'Toole, P. Peck to site with 2 contractors to discuss chain link fence (approximately 4150') & 16' gate to be built in 8/82. Approximately 200' of IDOT snow fence stolen, other parts broken.
- 7/82 Phil Van Ness letter to Mike O'Toole (OSC for USEPA) granting authorization for USEPA contractors' access to property to build fence.
- 7/82 Mike O'Toole decided personal safety equipment not required for fence construction at site.
- 3/83 Heavy rainfall = high water in DC. Tonie Townsend reported water flow thru blocked culvert at Judith. T. Powell sampled on south side where water level was above culvert. Freeboard of 4-5' on north side indicates little chance of flow over Judith. Also sampled water flooding basement on Walnut. (Less than 0.1 ppb of PCB)

WHO?

Reed Neuman - A.G.'s Office 10/80  
Joseph S. LiVigni - Cahokia City Council Member 3/71, 1984  
Roscoe Easteridge - former (3/71) Cahokia Public Works Director, current precinct officer  
Mike Foresman - Monsanto Pollution Control Engineer 5/75  
Ernest Russel - Cahokia Public Health Officer 5/75  
deceased  
Joseph W. Goldenberg - Cerro Chief Engineer 5/75  
Harold Waggoner - (deceased as of approximately 1976) (332-6855)  
H. Waggoner & Company Chemical Transporters 8/71  
Walter Allen - (332-6533) Theresa's Flower Shop - next to pit  
Tolbird, James & Doris - (337-4716) citizens  
Weise, Harold W. - property owner  
Hankins, Andrew & Myrtle - (337-5026) citizens, used to own and farm area now industrialized in Sauget  
Motogas - (332-8634) service station near site  
Mineweld - (332-0595) business near site  
Donald Elsaesser - property owner south of Judith  
Thomas A. Owen - (337-5146) broke down fence to dump, lives by pit  
Albert (Peter) Lauman III - lived on Judith, south of pit; moved to Houston 10/80. Dog died after rolling in DC 8/80  
Dale Klohr - DOT district engineer who supervised DC fencing 1980  
Rogers Trucking - occupied Waggoner property  
Gregory Branch - Mt. Prospect citizen who wrote to IEPA re DC 12/80  
William Seltzer - IEPA enforcement wrote to Reed Neuman in 1980 re status of investigation  
James Johnson - Cerro Copper 2/81  
Rosa Stillman - deceased - owned field south of Ruan. Contact Richard Stillman 332-1342  
Ruan Transportation - operating in Waggoner building  
Tonie Townsend - Cahokia Public Health person involved in DC since agency 1st became involved  
Paige E. Peck - USEPA, procurement, fence for DC 7/82  
Mike O'Toole - USEPA - involved in fencing DC 7/82  
Ed Gentry - Granite City Fence - contractor who fenced DC 7/82  
Nancy Batson - (337-4089) lives next to pit, water in basement 1/83  
William DeLisle - (337-2171) lives near DC had basement water sampled 2/83  
Bob Wright - (332-0466) lives near DC wanted well water sampled 8/83  
Mrs. Henderhorst - (314/621-5070 337-8255) Morningstar - had soil sampled 83  
Kathy and Steve Beck - (337-1436) live on Judith, next to DC 84  
Denise Weimer - works in Cahokia Village Hall - very helpful 84  
Edna Hall - 64 - lived on Walnut since 1952 11/80  
Pat Bradford, 44 - lived on Edwards since 1947 11/80  
Beryl Ryan, 64 - lived adjacent to DC since 1950 11/80  
Linda Price, 33 - neighbor whose 9 year old died of cancer 11/80